

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I want to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, and I want the same for my fellow voters. But I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. People can't vote when they don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues! Is this what the FCC wants?

The FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Please let me know what you plan to do to rectify this dismaying situation.
Sincerely,

mary king
590 weber ave.
akron, OH 443031829